

An Epistle to Friends.

Deare Friends and Welbeloved in the Lord, unto whom my Spirit
wishes peace and prosperitie for Ever ; that as the Lord hath
made himself manifest unto you, Even so to love him and abide with
him, and their you will finde safetie and preservation in all danger,
& you will not easily be moved or shaken as to the truth which ye have
Received, but will stand firm and sure as upon a Rock, for ye that are
come into the Faith of the Son of God you cannot easily goe from him,
or part with him, for you Remember the time when you wanted him,
& the dayes and nights of mourning because you could not finde him,
and now that he hath manifested himself unto you in his Light, and
that ye have found him, and Received him, can you leave him, and
forsake him to Imbrace the world again, or can you Run after any
airy Spirit into an airy Kingdom, oh no, the true birth cryes my beloved
is mine and I am his, with sore travell I have found him, and in diligent
watchfulness I will wait to keep with him, for he is the chiefeſt of ten
thousand, and his love is better then wine, and so you come to ſit under
his wing, and under his shadow, and in his preſenc have fulneſs of
joy, and this is your ſatisfaction, peace and conſolation, and ye cannot
go from that to Ioyne with the enemis temptation, for ye know in
whom you believe, and by whom you are preserved, and in him all live,
Even in Christ Jesus, who is the Life and Substance, and ſo in
him you will be ſolid and weighty, and Savory and ſound in Spirit
and minde, and there ye will honour the truth in a clear and
living testimony to Gods glory therefore keep your eye to the watch,
that as ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, you may walk in him,
and abide with him, for where any ſuffereth loss they negleſt the watch,
but as you watch in the light, you will not onely ſee your Enemy but
receive power to Refiſt him, and in due time to overcome him and
ſeeing the Enemie takes all advantages to work his work, how then
ſhould every one ſeeke after their ſafety & Security & ſtand inreadiness
to refiſt their Enemy. And how are all concerned to have the ſame
care one over another in love and tenderneſs of ſpirit, for it is a work
well pleasing unto God and they are of good report who are found in it,
and their memory is blessed for ever, and how this care hath been
manifested in time of danger ; it is witneſſed by ſuch as are preſerved,
for how hath the Enemy endeavoured not onely to enſnare with the
world, but to reign above the ſeed in his airy kingdom, and how hath
ſome been affected with his work as having a fair likeleſſ in a thew of
higher diſcoveries, and how hath the care of brethren been manifested
in this hour of temptation, for in the firſt appearance of breſting forth,
it daſzed

dazzled the Eyes of many, and they did not well know whether it was day or night: or what the Lord would doe in such a sudden change or alteration, and then was the travail of Brethren very great, as having much care of the body, and their testimony they faithfully published, and the Lord hath wrought mightily unto preservation and restoring, though sum in their own wisdom may still please themselves in that Kingdome, and notwithstanding the Lord hath so preserved, and restored, and given dominion over the hour of this temptation, and that the work which by the same was intended is by the power of God prevented, and the true ministry standeth, and the true worship standeth, and true unity standeth, and the holy Seed reigneth, yet it is needfull for all to be watchful, least the same spirit rise again in another likeness or form, for where he hath been bruised and foyled he will not so readily put up his head in that likeness again, but rather form some other & if the watch be not kept, the same affections may be taken again as before: for the wrong that any suffer in things of this nature is by the strength of natural affections, in which the enemy can excercise his Subtilty to deceive, and where the affections are let at liberty they will be catching at every new presentation, not regarding the ground from whence they came, and seeing that the power of the Lord God hath bruised him in this appearance, even so to watch in the power and keep him down with all his formed likenesses, and there ye will witness the conquering power and overcoming power of God, and the preservation and deliverance by it. Oh the power of the Lord which conquers & overcomes the enemy, it is a thing which is beyond expression, and yet may have a service through what is expressed, for thereby weak hands may be strengthened and feeble knees confirmed, and the poor and needy encouraged to follow the Lord, and keep the faith without wavering, and so in the power there is a going forward and a growth in grace and Godlynes, and there love and peace and unity aboundeth in the true seed, and the seed goes over the Serpents head and breakes it, and overthrowes his power and strength and authority, and so the true seed comes above him, and the birth of God rejoices over him. And so all friends minde your growth in the power and virtue of God, and keep your testimony in his life and wisdome, and your judgment in a clear discerning, and let your love and respect be unto such as faithfully labours in the word and Doctrine, & give no heed to that Spirit which would perswade you to disrespect brethren, for though the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ is not held in respect of persons, as to say to the Rich sit thou hear above, and to the poore sit thou there at my footstool. Yet who be in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ they are

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are taught to respect every person who be in the same faith, for how can any love one another according to Christ's command, if they disrespeſt their persons, for love and respect are mutually joyned, but ſome makes a noife about men and persons, and would have people ceafe from man, and not respect persons, and ſo would cunningly overthrow love and respect amonſt friends, and where the Enemy ſets up this doctrine he brings in envy in stead of love, and hatred in stead of reſpect, & they that receive this doctrine into their beleif, they ſoon go out from the Saints fellowship: for God hath cloathed ſome with his wiſdome, and with power from on high hath endued them, and in body soul and Spirit hath Sanctified them, and ſo as Sanctified men he calls them to labour in his work, and committs the word of Reconciliatiōn to them, and Inſtructs the Gopel of peace with them, and they that ceaſe from ſuch men and disreſpect ſuch men, they ceaſe from the power of God and disreſpect the power of God, forasmuch as the power of God ſpeaks in and by them: and ſo he hath ſet ſome in the Church who hath authority in his power and wiſdone to order and Edifie it, and this is a work beyond gathering and convincing, and who are come into the unity of the faith, and to the knowledg of the Son of God, and to the meaſure of the ſtature of the fulneſs of Christ, they dare not disreſpect his Apoſtles and minifters but hath unity with them in their work and Reioyces in their labour, and therefore beware of ſuch, who wrencheth Scripture from its owne Intention according to the mind of the Spirit, and let your love and respect be Enlarged one towards another; and let your words be few and savory, and in the Light walk reservedly, retiredly, for where words gusheth forth like water from a ſpout, the Tongue is not commanded with the bridle, and ſo is unruſhy and at liberty to ſpeak in the abundance of ſuperfluity, and ſuch diſcourses may tickle the mindes of ſome hearers and cauſe them to admire, but as to Edification there is no Savour in them, and all hold your unity and fellowship in the light and power of God, and watch over the natural affections which are Inordinate, that ſo in the ſeed you may be kindly affectionated one to another, and in the ſeed feels your refreshings together in the maniſtations of your unity. For the inordinate affections onely stirreth up the Inordinate part, and thereby begetteth the affections in others by its Inordinate maniſtation, & though in maniſtation it carries a great ſluſh of love, yea, ſeemingly more then what kindly affectionated friends do maniſt, yet it reacheth no further by its maniſtation then onely the natural affections, but unfeigned love reacheth the ſeed, and in the unity of the ſeed friends are refreſhed one in another. And dear frends as concerning

concerning the present times; be not ye troubled, but keep close to the Lord and cast your care upon him, and live with him, and so the times will not concern you, neither will you concerne your selves with the times, but mind that which concerns your peace out of the times, for though you may see dillress and calamitic depending as to the nation, yet you are not to concern your selves in it, but to stand still and eye the Lord, which I am full perswaded many of you doe, and they that do not so they create their own perplexity in the multitude of their owne thoughts, therefore all keep in the faith and in the love of God and his truth, and follow peace and pursue it, and then you will be ready to receive what God permitteth in true contentment, and so be still and quiet & feel Gods peace and blessing, and there lie down and trust the Lord with all you have, and then if Nation Rize against Nation and Kingdom against Kingdome, and that there be wars or famine or pestilence, you are not troubled nor disquieted as other people whom fears Surprizeth, but rest in your inward possession and feele Gods peace and blessing, for when calamity comes upon a nation or Kingdome because of Sin and iniquity therein, it surprises the sinner with fear because they are guilty & they are ready to take hold one of another, & yet dare not trust one another, such is their fear on every side, and if they fall in the Calamity they fall in their iniquity, and so falls in misery, but such as fears the Lord they lye down in peace, though in the same common calamity they be taken away, and therefore it is wch me to say unto you as it was sayed in times past, fear not little flock for it is your fathers good pleasure to give you a Kingdom and let this be your full satisfaction, for God hath provided better things for you then what is hear below, yea he hath provided a Kingdom and it is his good pleasure to give it you, and so your portion and inheritance is above & your riches above & your treasure above, and there let your hearts be, & let no man entice you with high words or arguments concerning the truch, for that will onely make you notionall, but keep low in Gods fear & power, and walk in the plain path, and there the Lord will meet you, and speak comfortably to you, and with his presence will refresh you, and that is the most desirable thing, and so in all things be watchfull with diligence, that as you have Escaped dangers past, even so ye may be kept from dangers to come, and then ye will finish a clear testimony to Gods glory, and receive Eternall life as your reward, and the Everlasting God of power be with you, in whose love my Spirit Salutes you and rests with you. Finally my brethren Fare ye well

